

KENTUCKY VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY KENTUCKY VIRTUAL LIBRARY

The Kentucky Virtual University (www.kyvu.org), the state's official virtual campus, offers one-stop access to affordable college credit courses and professional development programs offered online from Kentucky colleges, universities, and state agencies. The KYVU, which includes the Kentucky Virtual Library, was created as part of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997.

The KYVU's mission is to offer quality education to Kentuckians whose work and family situations may not allow them to come to campus, and to give on-campus students an opportunity to complete their degrees more quickly. It allows Kentucky's colleges and universities, independent as well as public, to expand their enrollment beyond students who can get to campuses at assigned places and times.

Enrollment in the KYVU has grown from less than 300 students when it began in fall 1999 to over 16,000 students in fall 2003. These learners are enrolled in courses offered by Kentucky's public and independent universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. The enrollments also include adult education learners and instructors enrolled in courses through www.KYVAE.org, a partnership between the KYVU and Kentucky Adult Education. Additional enrollments are generated from P-12 instructors enrolled in courses and programs through www.KyEducators.org, a partnership between the KYVU and the Education Professional Standards Board.

The Kentucky Virtual Library (www.kyvl.org) serves all Kentucky citizens by providing a convenient, single access point for statewide online library resources. The KYVL provides resources selected for K-12 students, librarians and educators, college and university faculty and students, and adult education educators and learners. Through the KYVL, Kentuckians can access over 40 licensed indexing, abstract, and full-text databases covering a broad range of subjects and retrieve full-text articles from over 5,000 journals and magazines. They also can make use of other services: an online "How to Do Research" tutorial; delivery of books and documents from one library to another (interlibrary loan); transmission of articles by fax or electronic mail via the Internet; and training for the state's librarians and educators. The KYVL collection of databases is searched an average of 550,000 times per month with peak search numbers at over 800,000 searches in a month. The KYVL supports the students and citizens of Kentucky, at all stages of life and learning.

Questions Governing Board Members Might Ask

1. How many academic programs do we offer through the KYVU?
2. Do we have distance learning courses that are not a part of the KYVU? If so, why are they separate?
3. How is the KYVU integrated into our strategic planning process?
4. How do we make optimal use of the KYVL?